

## **REMARKS**

### **I. SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Applicants have amended claim 49 and canceled claims 174 and 175. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced by way of these amendments.

### **II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Office Action of July 21, 2006 indicated claims 174-175 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Without acquiescing to the rejections contained in the July 21<sup>st</sup> Office Action, Applicants have amended claim 49 to better capture the envisioned commercial embodiments, and to expedite prosecution. Applicants assert that the amendments to claim 49 render moot all outstanding claim rejections. Applicants earnestly solicit reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness rejections.

Should the Examiner believe that further discussion of any remaining issues would advance the prosecution, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**57904**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 21, 2006